

# The Pocahontas Times.

It thou would'st read a lesson that will keep thy heart from fainting and thy soul from sleep, Go to the woods and hills.—Longfellow.

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Marlinton, Pocahontas County, West Virginia June 25, 1903.

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## SURVEYOR'S MARKS

### OF TIMES THE CAUSE OF CON- TENTIONS.

#### A Few Observations in Regard to Corner Trees.

Some years ago a party of men  
were running a survey in this  
county and at the end of a long  
course each man in the party was  
engaged in scanning the timber  
for the marks of a corner tree—  
three little burls in a line—which  
would check off the surveyors  
work and prove that the work was  
not in vain. The trained eye of  
the surveyor gives him a great ad-  
vantage in a search of this kind  
but every man in the party from  
the boy at the front end of the  
chain to the coterminous land own-  
ers who are in danger of being  
plunged into the seething pool of  
the law, are given leave to scatter  
and hunt for the corner tree.

On this particular occasion the  
surveyor in his search had gone  
to some distance looking for the  
tree and one of the chain carriers  
cast his eye up in a hickory and  
imagined he saw the three marks  
on the trunk of the tree at a point  
about forty feet from the ground.  
He immediately claimed to have  
found a marked tree and the party  
of men divided on the question of  
whether it was or not. One set  
claimed that surveyor's marks  
never get any farther from the  
ground while the other side argued  
that while the marks were at least  
half a century old and on a grow-  
ing tree that as the tree grew it  
would carry up with it the marks  
which had originally been cut in  
the trunk near the ground.

The surveyor was called and he  
repudiated the theory with scorn  
as it is well settled that no matter  
how tall a tree grows a mark on it  
never gets any farther from the  
ground. If a human being when  
he is three feet high falls down  
and gets cut on the forehead that  
mark gets farther from the ground  
as he grows but it is different  
in trees.

Some years ago a party was  
running a line where the trees had  
been marked over a hundred years  
and yet the marks on the trees in-  
dicated the height of the man who  
had placed them there. It was  
observed that he must have been  
a giant in stature—perhaps seven  
feet in height—if deductions after  
the manner of Sherlock Holmes  
are of any value.

A surveyor aims to mark a  
tree so that it will be noticeable  
for a hundred years or so, and yet  
not cut so deeply that the tree will  
rot at that place and obliterate the  
marks.

A tree that is well marked will  
just score the wood under the  
bark and leave a discolored mark  
on the wood which each year re-  
ceives farther from daylight. Then  
after the surveyor who put the  
mark there has been dead and  
gone a hundred years another sur-  
veyor will come and find the tree  
and will cut a block out of it and  
count the annual rings between the  
mark on the inside of the tree  
and the bark and see how it tallies  
with the records. So expert do  
surveyors become that they are  
able to tell whether the mark in  
the heart of the tree was caused by  
the hacking of a hatchet or whether  
it was a blaze or the work of a  
pocket knife. The annual rings  
are not to be relied upon implicitly  
because a tree may be  
found to have fallen down or it  
may be dead standing. But it  
often happens that in a survey  
over a century old the rings count  
out to the very year.

In some cases old marks are  
found on the outside of a tree and  
no sign of them are discoverable  
on the inside, and in other cases  
the bark may show perfectly  
smooth and yet the three marks  
may be found in the grain on the  
inside of the tree.

As we remarked before the ability  
to find the marks on corner  
trees improves with practice. The  
eye becomes trained after the man-  
ner of that of the person who is  
able to find four leaved clovers.  
It sometimes happens that by re-  
peating some rode from a tree the  
surveyor's marks can be seen

when close observation has failed  
to reveal them.

In 1751 General Andrew Lewis  
surveyed the land on which Mar-  
linton is now located and marked  
two white oaks at the point of the  
hill near the depot. These marks  
are to be seen to day, though it  
would probably take a surveyor to  
point them out to the average lay-  
man. A surveyor will tell you  
that the burls were made by one  
of those narrow bladed tomahawks  
still to be seen in this country.

In locating a corner tree the  
surveyor tries to put himself in the  
place of the old surveyor in more  
ways than one. He looks at the  
natural features called for, such  
as the head of a spring, the bend  
of a mountain side, the foot of a  
steep hill, by the side of a drain,  
a tree in stony ground, on the  
bank of the river, the forks of a  
creek or any such local descrip-  
tion as may verify his location of  
the land.

In this section the course is  
generally found to be correct in  
the old surveys, showing that the  
old pioneers had good compasses  
but in regard to distances it is  
just as certain to find them wrong.  
In buying land at four and one  
half cents an acre from the state  
our forefathers saw to it that the  
government did not give them any  
scant measure and they always  
threw in a few odd poles to sweet-  
en the bargain. This would be  
more apparent than it is were it  
not for the fact that in olden times  
the surveyors trailed the chains and  
in these days he measures with a  
level chain. That is, in measur-  
ing up or down hill the chain is  
leveled in successive steps to give  
the distance through the base of  
the hill. For this reason then it  
becomes very necessary at times  
to find old corners as the distance  
is not to be relied on in any event  
unless it be verified by a monu-  
ment.

Days were spent hunting for a  
corner tree in Greenbrier county  
some years ago on a course some  
miles long. The tree was de-  
scribed as being in a low place in  
the mountain. The mountain was  
notched like a saw and it was a  
matter of great moment to the  
contending parties where the par-  
ticular low place was. The tree  
could not be found apparently and  
search was almost abandoned.  
The party was seated in one of  
the low places when a lawyer  
noticed a cairn of stones piled at  
the foot of an oak tree in such a  
way that it indicated that they  
were not piled that way by chance.  
The tree was examined for marks  
on the bark but none could be  
seen. On cutting out a block  
however the tree marks were found  
in the grain of the wood and the  
boundaries of the survey estab-  
lished.

Some years ago the writer  
collected a theory as to the origin  
of the custom of marking corner  
trees with three strokes of the axe  
which like all theories will remain  
good perhaps until it is overturned  
by a better one. Our theory is  
this. When this country belonged  
to England myriads of trees were  
marked for government use such  
as ship building and the like.  
These trees were marked with a  
broad arrow which is still the  
mark for property belonging to  
the British government just as  
U. S. or U. S. A. marks government  
property with us. It takes three  
strokes of a hatchet to cut a broad  
arrow on a tree. We give a wood-  
cut of a broad arrow which we  
made a few minutes ago for the  
purpose of this article:



It will be seen from this that if  
the three strokes of the hatchet  
were delivered carelessly and some  
distance apart that we would soon  
have our corner tree mark. This  
theory is borne out by some cu-  
rious marks in some of the old  
surveys which are called "the  
nose and eye marks." In these  
cases the tree marks are placed in  
a triangle and at a distance look  
like monkey faces on the bark of  
the tree.

## PROCEEDINGS

### POCAHONTAS CIRCUIT COURT IN FULL

#### Court in Session a Week and a Large Volume of Business Transacted.

State v. Chalmers Shrader, \$50  
Same v. Wm Bowers, not guilty  
Same v. Walter Grimes, \$25  
Same v. Wm Grimes, \$25  
Same v. same, nolle  
Same v. same, nolle  
Same v. same, nolle  
Same v. Hoxie Meeks, \$25  
Same v. Chalmers Shrader, nolle  
Same v. Clifford Harford, \$10,  
four cases.

Same v. Grant Halterman, \$10,  
two cases  
Same v. Gordon Hevener, \$10  
Same v. G. W. Wagner, \$10  
Same v. Albert Perry, not guilty  
Same v. J. A. Shrader, Amos  
Shrader, and Henry C. Shrader,  
nolle.

J. B. Waugh v. J. R. Poage,  
judgement \$200, each party pay  
his own costs. Arbitrated by C.  
E. Beard, Uriah Bird and Wm H.  
Grose.

E. A. Wade v. R. D. Rimel,  
suit dismissed at plaintiff's cost.  
C. & O. Railway Co v. M. E.  
Hook and others, writ of prohibi-  
tion awarded plaintiff.

Bertie L. Galford v. Virginia C.  
Burner, ejectment, verdict for  
plaintiff.

Rev Harry Blackhurst licensed  
to perform the marriage ceremony  
S. B. Moore was reappointed a  
jury commissioner.

J. O. Mann was allowed to  
adopt Frank Dilley, orphan child  
of Mrs Allie Dilley, dec'd.

G. F. Crummett, Uriah Bird, C.  
J. Richardson, Thos Courtney,  
James McCollam, A. E. Smith  
and J. H. Patterson, Board of  
Trustees of the Marlinton M. E.  
Church South.

A. E. Smith, C. A. Yeager, C.  
J. Richardson, W. H. Grose, J.  
C. Lorry, A. C. Moore, P. M.  
Harper, I. B. Moore and John  
Waugh, Board of Trustees for  
parsonage property to be located  
at Marlinton for Huntersville Cir-  
cuit M. E. Church South.

Zeffrien Goulet v. G. P. Hamil-  
ton, damages for assault and bat-  
tery; judgement for defendant.  
Geo. L. Hannah v. John T. Mc  
Graw, judgment for plaintiff,  
\$1246.47.

State v. John Wes Carpenter,  
\$10, 2 cases.  
State v. Ada Carpenter, \$10,  
2 cases.

#### Chancery Orders.

Uriah Hevener v. John Grogg,  
amended bill filed.

J. A. Burnside's Adm v. Burn-  
side's heirs, decree of sale.

Andrew Price appointed trust-  
ee in room and stead of J. E.  
Tipton, in deed of trust of Geo-  
rgia M. Shearer, dated September  
3, 1903.

C. W. Showalter's Adm. v.  
Annie S. Woodell and others,  
sale confirmed.

A. W. Rider's Adm v. John  
Rider et als, petition of Floyd  
Rider for rehearing ordered filed  
and process to issue.

John E. Barlow, Receiver v.  
Susan E. Irvine and Cochran &  
Waugh v. Susan E. Irvine, sale  
confirmed to Geo W. Allen, \$174.

E. H. Smith v. John Wes Car-  
penter, referred to commissioner.  
Harper McLaughlin v. Pocahon-  
tas Development Company, de-  
cree for partition.

Bertie L. Galford v. Virginia C.  
Burner, injunction perpetuated.  
Luther M. Burner v. R. S. Turk  
demurrer overruled and cause con-  
tinued.

Wm E Dickinson Exor of Mar-  
garet A. Stokley v. Virginia S.  
Mooney and others, survey order-  
ed.

H. S. Rucker v. Lanty McCarty  
Worthington Hardware Co. v.  
M. R. Malcomb, and Robert L.  
Bird v. Emma J. Dilley, sale in  
each case set aside.

Greenbrier Grocery Co v. R. L.  
Nottingham, decree of sale.

H. A. Yeager's Adm v. H. A.  
Yeager's Heirs, Report No. 2 of

Commissioner Bratton confirmed  
T. S. McNeel appointed Special  
Commissioner to make sale of  
Mt. Lebanon Church property.  
H. Nathan v. Georgia M. Shear-  
er, sale confirmed.  
Richard Paul v. S. E. McNeel  
and others, decree of partition.  
Geo. L. Hannah v. Wm H.  
Hannah, ordered that plaintiff  
maintain good gates on right of  
way heretofore established.

#### The Hills.

This vicinity has been visited  
the past few weeks with fine rains  
which promoted the growth of  
grass and vegetation.

The Bethel Sunday school which  
has been recently organized is  
flourishing under the attentive  
management of Clayton Dilley,  
superintendent and Coe Beverage  
as assistant and preceptor.

Mrs. Beverage and Miss Geo-  
rgia Lightner of near Green Hill,  
Virginia are spending a few days  
with their sister Mrs. Coe Bever-  
age.

Rev. Catling preached at Mt.  
Zion Sunday June 7th, at 10:30,  
and at Mt. Tabor Sunday June  
14th, at 3:30.

J. H. Sampson & Son gave a  
free entertainment with their g-  
gamic graphophone at the home of  
the McCarty brothers, one even-  
ing last week. Hevener Dilley  
was commander of the music de-  
partment and Amos McCarty was  
referee, everything went lovely  
but the audience was small owing

to the fact that the concert was  
not extensively known.

Henry Poague of Edray was in  
the Hills Sunday.

Miss Geneva Sharp who has  
been stopping with Mrs. Willie  
Shrader for some days, left for  
her home near Frost Thursday.

Mrs. W. L. Moore who has  
been sick for several weeks is fast  
recovering and is able to be out.  
Chalmers and I. B. Shrader of  
Chester Mountain, Camp 3 and 4,  
are spending a few days vacation  
in the Hills.

J. H. Shrader made a flying  
trip to Hillsboro one day last  
week.

Another wedding in sight, may  
the good work go on and my joy  
and pleasure be unconfined.

#### Brady.

We are having it very wet at  
the present time weeds and grass  
is covering the corn, it has been  
so wet that the farmers cant work  
their corn. Meadows have come  
out wonderfully in the last ten  
days and have the appearance of  
making good crops of hay.

Mat Wallace and Mr. Hinkle  
county surveyor of Greenbrier  
have been surveying in this neigh-  
borhood for some days.

Professor Grant from Pensboro  
has been fishing and visiting  
friends here for the last ten days,  
he is a pleasant caller.

S. D. Beal and family of Ber-  
go, Webster county is visiting  
friends and relatives here.

J. C. Swecker has just finished  
sawing a large set of 200,000 feet  
of plank and is preparing to move  
about a mile to another set.

C. W. Brady & Co., will have  
another big picnic on the 4th  
of July at their old stand. Every-  
body is invited to attend and have  
a good time.

Nellie Sharp, youngest child of  
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Sharp, died  
on the 6th, they have the sympa-  
thy of the entire community.

#### Order of Publication.

At a circuit Court held on the  
8th day of April, 1903.

In the matter of the sale of Mt.  
Lebanon church of the M. E. C.  
on the Greenbrier Circuit of Vir-  
ginia Conference.

On the application of the trust-  
ees of said Mt. Lebanon church,  
notice is hereby given that the  
said trustees have filed a petition  
to the Circuit Court of Pocahon-  
tas County praying that said  
church property be sold and the  
proceeds be used in paying for  
the building of the new church on  
said circuit. Any person inter-  
ested may appear and resist said  
application.

Witness, J. H. Patterson clerk of  
said court at the court house on  
the 1st day of June, 1903.

J. H. PATTERSON, Clerk.  
T. S. McNeel, Sol.

## UNIFORM EXAMINATION.

### HELD IN MARLINTON LAST WEEK.

#### Twelve Applicants Try Their Luck for a State Certificate.

The first examination under the  
new uniform system was held at  
Marlinton last Thursday, Friday  
and Saturday, J. W. Warwick,  
County Superintendent, assisted  
by T. A. Bruffey and T. D.  
Moore were the board in charge.

Thirteen teachers presented  
themselves, but one, we under-  
stand, not wishing to risk the con-  
sequences of such an unlook-  
ing number withdrew and the fol-  
lowing twelve were duly examined.

Lacy Sharp,  
Anna Lee Irvine,  
Bertie Hill,  
Bertie McNeil,  
Leva Hannah,  
Sallie Wilson,  
Laura Hudson,  
T. M. McCarty,  
D. F. McMillion,  
C. F. Hall,  
Amos Herold,  
C. F. Tallman.

After the examination the pa-  
pers were sealed and forwarded to  
the State Superintendent of  
schools who will grade them.

There will be two more exami-  
nations this year, one in July and  
the other in August.

The teachers who have ex-  
pressed themselves seem well  
pleased with the new system. The  
questions are practical and cover  
the studies as well as could be ex-  
pected. The following is the ex-  
amination in full:

#### READING.

1. Which is of the greater im-  
portance, oral or silent reading?  
2. How should the teaching of  
a lesson in the fifth reader differ  
from that of a lesson in the first?

3. What is the difference be-  
tween accent and emphasis?  
4. Do you use any vocal or el-  
ocutionary exercises in connection  
with reading lessons, if so, de-  
scribe some of them briefly.

5. Which is the more impor-  
tant, to teach how to read or what  
to read?

6. Name two American histo-  
rians, three American poets and  
three American statesmen. Give  
brief sketch of each two.

7. Name a number of books  
which you think suited to develop  
a taste for good literature among  
youth, and that will also tend to  
aid in the formation of noble char-  
acter.

8. Who is your favorite author?  
What is your favorite poem? Who  
is the greatest character in human  
history? Who has come most  
nearly realizing your ideal of what  
life should be? What is educa-  
tion?

#### ORTHOGRAPHY.

1. Give two established rules  
in spelling and illustrate each.

2. Write nine pairs of words  
similar in orthography but dissim-  
ilar in orthoepy.

3. Syllabify and mark dis-  
crimination, symbolic, Roman,  
practical, ordinary, likewise, con-  
voke, coeval, before, accede, com-  
plex and finale.

4. What is your method of  
teaching orthography?

#### PENMANSHIP.

1. Which do you prefer, slant  
or vertical writing?

2. Explain briefly your meth-  
ods in teaching (a) beginners, (b)  
more advanced pupils.

#### ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

1. Write the plural of mercy,  
beef, hoof, sheep, Henry, oar-  
man, R. cameo, man-servant,  
Miss Smith and give five rules for  
the use of capital letters.

2. Define voice, mode and  
tense. Name a verb that may be  
either active or passive and use it  
in each voice in a sentence.

3. Form a sentence with an in-  
finitive phrase as subject, one with  
a noun clause as subject and one  
in which the verb has two objects  
one of person and one of thing.

4. By forming sentences illus-  
trate the correct use of the verbs  
write, do, bring, see, give, lay,  
and throw in at least two tense  
forms each.

5. Give a simple sentence, ex-  
pand it into a complex, then into  
a compound sentence without any  
added meaning; reverse the pro-

cess; that is, write a compound  
sentence contract it into a com-  
plex then into a simple sentence  
without loss of meaning.

6. Define a personal pronoun;  
a relative pronoun. Name three  
compound relative pronouns. Dis-  
tinguish between the use of who  
and which.

9. Parse the words in italics: I  
saw my friend today. That house  
which you see on the hill yonder  
belongs to Mr. Brown.

10. Give the first person singu-  
lar of the verb lie (to recline) in  
all the tenses of the indicative  
mode and the verb teach in the  
third person feminine singular,  
potential mode, passive voice.

#### GENERAL HISTORY.

1. What are the main divisions  
of general history commonly made?  
Give the dates of the divisions.

2. Give briefly the time, place,  
cause and result of the French  
Revolution.

3. What was the purpose of the  
Crusades? How many were there?

4. Who was Galileo? Coperni-  
cus? Pompey? Hannibal? Cleopatra?

5. Name the principal religious  
reformations of the world.

6. Give an account of the inva-  
sion of Greece by Xerxes.

7. Write a brief account of the  
life and times of Henry VIII. of  
England.

8. What were the main causes  
of the fall of Rome?

9. Who composed the first tri-  
umvirate? For what purpose was  
it formed?

10. Describe the Magna Charta,  
telling when and how it came to  
be.

#### GEOGRAPHY.

1. Tell how it would affect the  
zones if the earth's axis were in-  
clined 30 degrees.

2. Bound Pennsylvania and  
draw a small outline map showing  
general shape of West Virginia,  
and locate five rivers and seven  
cities and town therein.

3. Give definition and example  
of island, peninsula, mountain,  
plateau and watershed.

4. What is the population of  
West Virginia according to the  
census of 1900? Its area? Its rank  
in the production of coal, oil and  
gas?

5. Name and locate the largest  
two cities of the world; the largest  
two cities of the United States;  
the largest one in West Virginia.

6. Name and locate five inland  
seas on the coast of Europe.

7. What and where is the inter-  
national date line?

8. What waters would a cargo  
of wheat traverse in going from  
Duluth to Liverpool?